

To: Governor  
From: Buddy B.  
Re: Letter from Robert B. Moore, of Fort Worth, TX  
Date: August 17, 2009

Mr. Moore's letter posed two issues on which you asked for further information.

### **Winston Churchill bust removed from the Oval Office**

This is true. As the London Telegraph reported on February 14, 2009, "A bust of the former prime minister once voted the greatest Briton in history, which was loaned to George W. Bush from the UK's art collection after the September 11 attacks, has now been formally handed back.

"The bronze by Sir Jacob Epstein, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds if it were ever sold on the open market, enjoyed pride of place in the Oval Office during President Bush's tenure.

"But when British officials offered to let Mr. Obama to hang onto the bust for a further four years, the White House said: 'Thanks, but no thanks.'

"Diplomats were at first reluctant to discuss the whereabouts of the Churchill bronze, after its ejection from the seat of American power. But the British Embassy in Washington has now confirmed that it sits in the palatial residence of Ambassador Sir Nigel Sheinwald, just down the road from Vice President Joe Biden's official residence. It is not clear whether the ambassador plans to keep it in Washington or send it back to London."

### **President Obama's call for a "civilian military force"**

You asked if this is part of the stimulus. This initiative mirrors a program Michele Obama helped launch in Chicago to involve disadvantaged youth in public policy

affairs and appears to have become federal law independent of the stimulus.

Some background:

In July 2008, at a campaign rally in Colorado Springs, candidate Obama introduced his plan to implement a "Civilian National Security Force" in which he described an organization "as big and well-funded as the U.S. military."

McClatchy Newspapers reported:

*"Loving your country shouldn't just mean watching fireworks on the 4th of July," he (Obama) said. "Loving your country must mean accepting your responsibility to do your part to change it. If you do, your life will be richer, our country will be stronger."*

*In his speech at the University of Colorado campus, Obama pledged that enhanced public service and active citizenship would be a central cause of his presidency.*

*Obama repeated his pledge to boost the size of the active military. But he also said the nation's future and safety depends on more than just additional soldiers.*

*"It also depends on the teacher in East L.A., or the nurse in Appalachia, the after-school worker in New Orleans, the Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, the Foreign Service officer in Indonesia," he said.*

***"We cannot continue to rely only on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we've set," he said Wednesday. "We've got to have a civilian***

***national security force that's just as powerful, just as strong, just as well funded."***

This initiative became HR 1388, the Edward M. Kennedy Service to America Act. It passed both houses, was signed by President Obama on April 21, 2009, became PL 111-13, and will be effective on October 1, 2009.

Generally referred to as the Serve America Act, it amends the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to revise programs and reauthorize appropriations through FY2014.

But, it also includes "new programs and studies" and is expected to be funded with an allocation of about \$5.7 billion over the next five years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. No appropriation has been approved.

It has a goal of reaching 250,000 volunteers throughout all national service positions by 2017.

This new "volunteer corps" is to consider whether "a workable, fair, and reasonable mandatory service requirement for all able young people" should be developed.

The legislation also refers to uniforms" that would be worn by the "volunteers" and the "need" for a "public service academy", a 4-year institution" to "focus on training" future "public sector leaders." The training, apparently, would occur at "campuses" chosen from applications by predominately black institutions of higher education.

Of special note: Sec. 1310 Prohibits the use of AmeriCorps positions for specified activities, including: (1) attempting to influence legislation; (2) engaging in protests, partisan political activities, or religious instruction; (3) assisting or deterring union organizing; (4) providing abortion services or referrals; or (5) conducting voter registration drives.

***There is no specific similar section for the National Civilian Community Corps.***